

THE TEXAS QUESTION.

We published in our last letter the Letter of Mr. Clay on the question of annexation, and present today the Letter of Mr. Van Buren. This is certainly one of the most important questions which has been brought forward since the commencement of our government, and it becomes us all, as lovers of the Union, and as friends of the annexation, to enter into and continue the discussion of it with no partisan or sectional feeling that we can possibly get rid of.

To any one who critically reads the two Letters this broad ground of difference will appear: Mr. Clay is opposed to annexation either immediately or herculean; whilst Mr. Van Buren, though opposed to it as an *immediate* step, is nevertheless in favor of it, provided the voice of the people should clearly call for it; and the grounds of difficulty as between Mexico and Texas should, in the mean time, be fairly surmounted or removed. Mr. Clay says, "I consider the annexation of Texas, at this time, without the assent of Mexico, as a measure compromising the national character; involving us certainly in war with Mexico, probably with other foreign powers, dangerous to the integrity of the Union, and inexpedient in the present financial condition of the country." Mr. Clay also anticipates the formation of separate and independent Republics in Texas and Canada, and dwells upon the advantages which he thinks would arise from them to the whole American continent—thus showing, with sufficient clearness, the chanciness into which his plans are running! But what says Mr. Van Buren? Hear him!

"If the time ever comes when the question resolves itself into whether Texas shall become a British dependency or colony, or a continental portion of this Union, the great principle of self-government, as well as to nations as to individuals, will be vindicated, produced as great a unanimity amongst us in favor of the latter alternative, as can ever be expected on any great question of foreign or domestic policy."

But he goes further even than this, and therefore entirely beyond Mr. Clay in his devotion to the cause of annexation. He says, "Mexico may carry her persistence in refusing to acknowledge the independence of Texas, and in destructive but fruitless efforts to re-conquer that State, so far as to produce, in connection with other circumstances, a decided conviction on the part of a majority of the people of the United States, that the permanent welfare, if not absolute safety of all, make it necessary that this proposed annexation (if so affected) be the consequences what they may." He then goes on to state, that if elected President, his powers will be wielded to carry into effect the abettant wishes of the people. His letter is, indeed, every way characteristic of the man and it must be regarded by every one as a calm, able, and dignified exposition of opinions upon a question alike delicate and momentous.

In addition to the above letters of Messrs. Van Buren and Clay, Mr. Weston and Comptroller Charles Stewart (familiarly known as *Old Nonsense*) have both been drawn out on this question. Col. Denham was opposed to the cession of Texas in 1819, and has ever since been in favor of re-acquiring the Territory; but he also is opposed to immediate annexation. He concludes his Letter as follows:

CHEERFUL NEWS FROM ORANGE!

We publish to-day the proceedings of two Democratic Meetings in Orange, and have on hand the proceedings of three more, which we are compelled to defer until our next. In all parts of the county, we learn, the most ardent and enthusiastic spirit prevails. A friend has just written to us as follows: "I have this moment returned home from our democratic district meeting. Never on any occasion, have I witnessed as much enthusiasm, as that of the American Union. The interest of both parties requires it, and the same feeling and policy which made the Texian people desire it for eight years past will make them continue to desire it until the reunion is accomplished. No earthly power, except Mexico, is a right interferer in this question; and her righteous cause will cease. If she is wise, she will cease hostilities at once, acknowledging her independence, and offering her services to the American Union. If she is not wise, and makes her resistance to the union, it will be for some time, without making anything by it for nominal war, after the expiration of the present armistice, will answer no purpose. She refused to acknowledge the independence of Holland, and for seventy years after she was actually independent, that exhibition of Castilian pride and obstinacy made no difference in the rights of Holland, and in the conduct of Europe. From that time the world could afford no example, without regard to the nominal pretensions of Spain, and so it was with the late Spanish provinces in the New World; and so it will be with Texas and Mexico. A short time, and either the acknowledgment of Mexico, or the consent of all nations, will give Texas all the rights of a sovereign power: the question of admission will then be one of exclusive arrangement, except between the two claimants for earthly power; except Mexico, has a right to interfere in the question, as far as to give up this right to interfere in it. If kept up, it will be known to all the world, that there is no room for sectional views, party politics, and selfish, personal and sordid schemes, the reunion may then be easily effected, and in a way that ought to be satisfactory to the whole Union, though not without a heavy expense to the federal treasury. Come when it may, the cost of recovering this dismembered limb of Louisiana, must equal, or exceed, the whole cost of the original acquisition of that vast territory such as the annexation of the Mexican Treaty of 1819. But the cost in money will be no object to my action. Costs of adjustment, kind are what I wish to avoid: costs in national honor—in foreign war—in ruined commerce—in domestic dissension—in sectional animosities—and in the disturbance of the harmony of the Union and the business of the people. The sacrifice of Texas was a calamitous blunder in 1819; let us not repeat the blunder, and double the calamity, by the manner of recovering it in 1844."

Colonel Stewart meets the question with great boldness, and comes out as the decided advocate of immediate annexation. We hope to have room to publish both these letters next week.

WHIG SCENES AT BALTIMORE.

The Baltimore Republican gives a graphic account of the Whigs doing at Baltimore during their last Convention. The *Coon*, it seems, was the prevailing Deity. It usurped every thing, and in the next receive their candidate with banners emblazoned with gold and green in a splendid *Landau* drawn by four horses—political hypocrites and deceivers—and to Hartford Convention, whether it lingers in the ranks of the whigs of Connecticut or shows itself in the political disquisitions of the Hillsborough Recorder. Will that do? Or will the Editor take another dose?

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